

**OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT**

Report Release Date: February 16, 2011

**Review of the Death of Malia Ransom
of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma**

Dates and Outcome of Investigations and Actions Taken by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS); Actions Taken by the District Attorney; and Dates and Summary of Judicial Proceedings and Rulings of the Court

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the death of one-year-old Malia Ransom. Malia was admitted into a metro hospital in cardiac arrest. It was alleged that Malia had suffered severe physical abuse by Omar Hill one of the Persons Responsible For Child (PRFC). A Criminal Felony First Degree Murder charge was filed in Oklahoma County District Court on December 9, 2010, against the mother's boyfriend, Omar Hill.

Authorization

Title 10A, Section 1-6-105, B, D and E, of the Oklahoma Statutes, states:

B. When a person responsible for a child has been charged by information or indictment with committing a crime resulting in the death or near death of the child, there shall be a presumption that the best interest of the public is served by public disclosure of certain information concerning:

1. The circumstances of the investigation of the death or near death of the child; and
2. Any other investigations concerning that child, or other children while living in the same household, within:
 - a. three (3) years of the death or near-death, and
 - b. one (1) year after the death or near-death.

D. 1. At any time subsequent to seven (7) days after the date the person responsible for the child has been criminally charged, the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall, upon request, release certain information to the public within sixty (60) days of the request as follows:

a. a confirmation shall be provided by the Commission as to whether a report of suspected child abuse or neglect has been made concerning the alleged victim or other children while living in the same household and whether an investigation has begun,

b. confirmation shall be provided by the Commission as to whether previous reports of suspected child abuse or neglect have been made and the dates thereof, a summary of those previous reports, the dates and outcome of any investigations or actions taken by the Department [OKDHS] and the Commission in response to any previous report of child abuse or neglect, and the specific recommendation made to the district attorney and any subsequent action taken by the district attorney,

c. the dates of any judicial proceedings prior to the death or near death of the child,

d. recommendations submitted by the Department [OKDHS] and the Commission shall be provided in writing including recommendations made at the hearing as they relate to custody or placement of a child, and

e. the rulings of the court.

2. Specific recommendations made by the Commission described in any progress reports of a pending case submitted to the court may be disclosed by the Commission.

E. Any disclosure of information pursuant to this section shall not identify or provide an identifying description of any complainant or reporter of child abuse or neglect, and shall not identify the name of the child victim's siblings or other children living in the same household, the parent or other person responsible for the child, or any other member of the household, other than the person criminally charged.

Identifiers:

Child's Name: Malia Ransom
Date of Birth: March 13, 2009
Date of Death: November 21, 2010

Alleged Perpetrator: Omar Hill, Malia's Mother's boyfriend

Sibling 1 five-year-old
Sibling 2 four-year-old
Sibling 3 five-month-old

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) did not become aware of this case until after the death of Malia Ransom.

The OCCY reviewed the OKDHS records regarding Malia Ransom that occurred prior to her death. The OKDHS documented three referrals alleging abuse/neglect of Malia within the past three years.

Case History

Report to the OKDHS Alleging Abuse/Neglect (August 28, 2008)

On August 28, 2008, the OKDHS received a report alleging abuse/neglect of three children. Reportedly, Malia's mother had left the children with an inappropriate caregiver. It was further reported that the caregiver supervised the three children after she a (non-relative) had her own children removed during which time OKDHS was in the process of terminating her parental rights.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority 1 to be initiated within twenty four hours. The OKDHS made contact with the family within twenty four hours. The OKDHS made a finding of Services Not Needed based on no suspicious injuries found on any of the children and the family had no prior child welfare history.

According to the children's mother, the children were never left in the care of this inappropriate caregiver that she just visited at the time the children were at a relative's home. It further stated; that the mother and a relative provide alternate care of their children. The OKDHS worker interviewed the children's mother, two relatives and a non-relative who verified that the children were not left alone with the alleged inappropriate caregiver.

Report to the OKDHS Alleging Abuse/Neglect (March 3, 2010)

On March 3, 2010, the OKDHS received a report alleging abuse/neglect of eleven-month-old Malia. Reportedly, Malia's mother picked Malia up from a relative's home when she later noticed Malia had bruising inside and around her left ear. The mother further stated that once she unclothed the child she then noticed several more bruises. It was reported that Malia also had a small scrape on her chest and another scrape on the back of her head, a scrape and knot behind her bruised left ear, she had bruises on her forehead and on both cheeks, a bruise on her chin and her face which was slightly swollen.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority II Assessment to be initiated within twenty four hours. The OKDHS made contact with the family within twenty four hours. Those persons involved in the assessment process included Malia's mother and two siblings. It was reported by one of the siblings that they had witnessed a non-relative "whooped her (Malia) with a whooping stick" after Malia allegedly broke an ashtray.

The OKDHS documented that the children were safe in the Child Safety Assessment. The OKDHS documented the worker did not observe any suspicious marks on the two siblings. The OKDHS documented they observed Malia walking and fall into a side table and hit her head. The OKDHS documented the children did not appear fearful of their mother and it appeared the children were well bonded with each other and with the mother. The OKDHS attempted to ask the children if they knew how Malia got the bruises on her body and the children reported that they did not know.

Report to the OKDHS Alleging Abuse/Neglect (November 21, 2010)

On November 21, 2010, the OKDHS received a report alleging abuse/neglect of Malia. Reportedly, Malia's mother's boyfriend, Omar Hill found Malia downstairs "gurgling." It was reported that Mr. Hill attempted CPR unsuccessfully then called 911. Malia was transported to a metro hospital in cardiac arrest and later pronounced dead. The Medical Examiner (ME) reported the cause of death was blunt force trauma to Malia's abdomen. Malia also had a front and back skull fracture and an old subdural hematoma along with brain swelling.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I to be initiated within twenty four hours. The OKDHS made contact with the family within twenty four hours. The OKDHS confirmed Malia died due to severe physical abuse by Mr. Hill her mother's boyfriend. The OKDHS further confirmed Threat of Harm to Malia's siblings. The OKDHS recommended court intervention and termination of the parental rights as to all of the surviving children.

Felony Charges Filed (December 9, 2010)

Omar Jamon Hill was charged with Criminal Felony Murder in the First Degree on December 9, 2010, in Oklahoma County District Court.